



Saskatchewan's Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart, INL's J.W. "Bill" Rogers Jr., and Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd recently signed a memorandum of understanding outlining collaborative energy research.

INL partners with Saskatchewan on energy research

by [Keith Arterburn](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

Governments, research institutions and industry are banding together more often today to collaborate in developing new energy systems, technologies and capabilities.

Idaho National Laboratory continued expanding its collaborations in the Western Energy Corridor by recently signing a memorandum of understanding with the Saskatchewan provincial government in Regina. The lab has signed several such cooperative agreements during the last year.

The MOU formalizes processes for INL and Saskatchewan to agree on energy research and demonstration efforts in uranium, nuclear energy, heavy oil, oil shale and oil sands. The agreement also provides for potential collaboration on carbon dioxide capture and storage projects.

"Saskatchewan is impressive for its abundance of natural resources used for energy and agricultural production," said Associate Laboratory Director for Energy and Environment J.W. "Bill" Rogers Jr., who led INL's three-person delegation. "Our new partners have asked INL to contribute independent validation of technologies and approaches to advance their energy development."

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd and Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart represented the Saskatchewan government at the signing.

"As we expand that research and move into other areas of value-added energy development, it just makes good sense to form partnerships with energy research leaders like INL and benefit from their expertise and analysis," Boyd said.

Recently, INL has entered into several research agreements, including one on hydrogen vehicles in British Columbia and another on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles with the state of Washington. On March 28, 2008, INL signed a MOU on energy research with the Alberta Research Council. Also in 2008, INL agreed to cooperate in research with both the state of Idaho and the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation to develop biomass and other energy resources in the region.

During a state visit earlier this year, President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper discussed collaboration between U.S. and Canadian organizations concerning carbon capture and sequestration. Saskatchewan has world-class expertise in carbon management to share. INL's contributions focus on hybrid energy systems that can combine nuclear, fossil and renewable energy sources, including biomass, wind, hydro and geothermal.

During the INL delegation's visit, INL nuclear expert Harold McFarlane delivered a keynote presentation on small nuclear reactors to the [EnerCan West 2009 energy conference](#) hosted by the Canadian Nuclear Association.

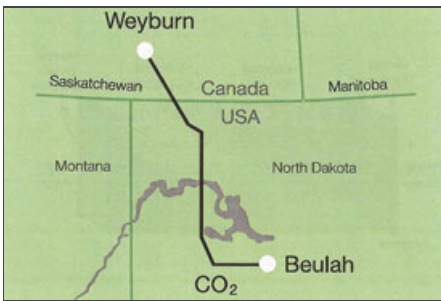
"Saskatchewan provides almost one-quarter of the world's uranium supply, including substantial exports to power U.S. homes and industry," said McFarlane, who is chairman of the International Nuclear Energy Academy. "Now they are in the early stages of considering value-added opportunities for the province, including generating clean, safe nuclear electricity and potentially providing additional fuel cycle services."

During the visit for the MOU signing, the INL delegation toured the Petroleum Technology Research Centre in Regina and EnCana's Weyburn enhanced oil recovery project.

"The Weyburn Project illustrates the type of technology and energy research and demonstration efforts needed among those in the Western Energy Corridor," said INL energy business lead Mike Hagood. Weyburn has received 10 million tons of carbon dioxide from a synthetic fuel plant in



Rogers announces energy research agreement at a news conference in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Beulah, N.D., via a 323-kilometer pipeline for use in its oil field. It is the world's largest carbon sequestration project.

"INL can learn much about development of unconventional fossil energy resources and carbon management from Saskatchewan as provided for in this MOU," Hagood added.

INL and Saskatchewan have formed a steering committee to plan future collaborations during the coming months.

Read Saskatchewan's [news release about the agreement](#).

EnCana's Weyburn facility in Saskatchewan is the world's largest carbon sequestration project.

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